

The contention that a forest can be harvested for wood every year sustainably is a total oxymoron. How long does it take for a mature tree to grow back once it's been cut? In Al Gore's new book, "Our Choice", he provides a very informative chart showing the life cycle of trees and when their carbon sequestration growth period is the greatest. I was surprised to see that it is from 40-120 years. Any time we cut a healthy tree it is a double loss because its stored carbon is released back into the atmosphere and it is no longer available to sequester any more toxic CO₂ out of the air we breathe.

The fact that environmental studies have shown that biomass power plants produce more poisonous CO₂ than dirty-fired coal plants ought to "seal the deal" for environmentalists, citizens concerned about protecting the health of their forests and the preservation of bio-diversity, and MA officials.

Another real concern with large biomass power plant companies is this: Once they sign a contract with a city or town to produce a certain amount of electrical energy in KW's, they have to find enough biomass every month to fulfill that contractual agreement. What happens when they can't get enough leftover corn stalks, underbrush, construction debris, and tree limbs from storms? They will be forced to clear-cut healthy trees from our forests or from another state's forests. This is the reality of doing business with a biomass power plant company and it's simple not good environmental business.

According to Dr. James Hansen, the director of the NASA Goddard Space Institute at Columbia University, we must get below 350 parts per million of toxic CO₂ to sustain life on Earth as we know it. Already, we are at 390 ppm and rising every year, and the toxic CO₂ that's already in the atmosphere will stay there for well over a hundred years or more. Therefore, we not only must reduce our carbon footprint to zero in terms of emissions, but we must find ways to sequester toxic CO₂ out of the atmosphere simultaneously. Given our national and global economy, that's going to be one hell of a mission to accomplish.

An acre and a half of forest, mostly tropical forests, are cut every second around the globe. Obviously, this harmful practice must be stopped ASAP while millions of new trees are planted every year. If you read Jared Diamond's book, "Collapse", where he documents the collapse of several countries and civilizations, cutting down one's trees is among the worst practices possible. Trees shouldn't be cut until after they have passed their "peak sequestration point".

Many people are beginning to realize that "Sustainability Equals Survival". Neither human nor plant life can survive without healthy, abundant, renewable air, water, food, security [clothing, shelter, habitat, and peace], and renewable energy. Renewable energy is key to the success of the other four. Why? Because with 100 percent renewable energy our air will be clean and we can build as many desalination plants around the globe as we need. This will provide us with virtually unlimited drinking water and healthy water for farming,--provided we bring population growth under control soon.

Whatever our states and America can do to promote a 100% Renewable Energy Revolution ASAP, with tax cuts, tax credits, and subsidies, will be a major boon to the success of this

endeavor. If all corporations were directly assessed a carbon tax for the toxic CO2 they produce and these taxes were then used to for a green retrofitting of all corporate factories, warehouses, and office buildings with renewable energy,--both our economy and our environment would benefit greatly. Instead of dragging anchor, our America could start leading the world.

Whatever the State of MA can do to promote renewable energy, without biomass burning, will be a great plus. Sincerely yours,

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